



NEWS LETTER

I respect the man who knows distinctly what HE WISHES. The greater part of all mischief in the world arises from the fact that men do not sufficiently understand their own aims. They have undertaken to build a tower, and spend no more labor on the foundation than would be necessary to erect a hut.

—Goethe.

NOVEMBER

1937

This NEWSLETTER is published monthly by the Greenkeepers Club of New England, and sent free to its members and their Green's Chairmen. Subscription price ten cents a copy, or a dollar a year.

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213 Calvin St., Fall River, Mass.

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19 Keene St., Stoneham, Mass.

November, 1937

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THANKSGIVING

The first Thanksgiving was celebrated three hundred years ago, and after the Plymouth Pilgrims had been settled in their new homes but a few months. To the comparatively pampered beings of this twentieth century, it appears they had but small excuse for an elaborate Thanksgiving celebration.

They lived in little more than huts, built of branches and the cracks stuffed with mud. They had suffered from diseases, lost many of their members by death, enjoyed no luxuries, and the necessities of life were scanty. The future was problematical, the present difficult, but they had enough wisdom to feel the spirit of gratitude that existence was still theirs, that they had been able to provide themselves with even a monotonous, meager sustenance and as yet their enterprise had not failed. Blood still coursed in their bodies and hope swelled in their hearts. They had much to complain of and yet sufficient to be thankful for.

This is the spirit that wrested a continent from the wilderness, and wrought a nation which is the envy of the world. We, their descendants, should not be unworthy of our heritage. Let us not betray the traditions they have left us.

We too have missed some of the bounties of life. We have lived through a winter of depression, but we should be thankful that we are among those who were destined to survive. There are memories of good things we have enjoyed in the past for which gratitude should surge up in our soul.

At the present time, the sun still shines on us, and we have comforts that the Pilgrims never dreamed could be. For the future, hope still flames

within us, and let those of us who have been guaranteed the fulfillment of our hopes by a proper preparation be doubly thankful. Let us not shame our Pilgrim forebears.

(The Thread of Life).

ACQUIRE THE WORK HABIT

By F. R. Low, Editor of "Power"

Headed for success into whatever status he was born, in whatever direction he turns his effort, is the man who knows how to work.

I do not refer to manual skill or mental ability, to particular cleverness in doing a job, but to the faculty of buckling down to it and seeing it through.

Anyone can work when the thing that is being done or made is something in which he is particularly interested, something the completion of which will be a pleasure and a profit to himself.

But the ability to overcome lassitude and inertia, to pull away from the diversion that is calling, to **tackle the thing that ought to be done and to stick to it with bulldog tenacity until it is accomplished**, is the quality that makes a man useful and wins him a livelihood and more.

Some men will use more ingenuity and real effort in getting rid of a job than would twice do it. Others are always looking for a chance to be useful.

Every good thing is the product of labor. If you enjoy the good things of life, you have either got to make them, cook them, or have some good angel to feed them to you. And angels are not so plenty. Get the work habit.

The last outdoor meeting of the season was held on October 25th at the Norfolk Golf Club, Dedham, Mass. In the 18-hole medal tournament, prizes were awarded the following:

Edward Ohlson—84-16-68
Howard Farrant—87-18-69
Lloyd Stott—94-24-70
Paul Hayden—88-18-70
Nick Bruno—83-13-70
Al Barney—89-18-71
Frank Wilson—95-24-71
Mike O'Grady—83-12-71

GREENKEEPERS' FALL BULLETIN

Service Section Committee
M. G. A.

The past season has been one of the most disastrous for the growing of fine turf in recent years. Greenkeepers have been confronted by unprecedented attacks of insects and diseases. Abnormal temperatures together with high humidity and lack of rain made ideal conditions for these diseases and insects to work.

A cold wet spring was conducive to the growth of the largest amount of *Poa Annua* (annual blue grass) in years. The extreme heat of July and August made it impossible to hold the *Poa Annua*, which is shallow rooted, and most of it died. This required re-seeding or resodding of the dead areas at a time that was not ideal for this kind of work.

In July, one of the smaller of the manure beetles (*Ataenius Cognatus*) attacked the turf of tees, greens, and fairways in varying degrees of severity, in some cases doing a tremendous amount of damage. Injury to the turf is caused by the grubs which live in the soil and eat the roots of the grass. In the most seriously infested spots, the turf can be rolled back in large sections. There is no guarantee that this insect will not be as severe or more so next year and greenkeepers should be on the lookout for it.

The sod webworm, a small worm which resembles the cutworm but never attains as large a size, has been particularly injurious this past season, there being three broods instead of the customary two. This insect lives through the winter in the grub stage. The butterflies drop their eggs in flight, the eggs hatch and the grub burrows into the soil building a cotton lined nest from which they emerge at night to feed on the grass at the base of the leaf.

July and August, two months of continuous excessive heat and high humidity brought on a continuous attack of various fungus diseases. Rain in the middle of August which did not lower the temperature encouraged further fungus attacks on the already weakened turf. Some of these diseases were large and small brown patch, pythium, pink spot, zonate eye spot and scald, fairy ring and a new disease, the iden-

tity of which is not certain. For pythium, pink spot and zonate eye spot, there is no known control.

The fall growth of greens and tees, in most cases, has been below normal. This may be due to the use of excessive amounts of chemicals in the control of diseases and insects.

The above resume of the past season indicates the urgent need for research work relative to the culture of fine turf.

The Massachusetts Greenkeepers' Association is again introducing a bill in the next Legislature asking for an appropriation of \$15000.00 for this purpose. This bill deserves the support of every golfer.

Now that the growing season is nearly over, it is time to prepare the course for winter.

1. Temporary greens should be prepared.
2. The soil tested so that necessary corrections can be made.
3. An adequate amount of compost screened, stored and tested.
4. The water system should be drained.
5. Mercural treatment for snow mold should be applied.
6. Preparation of next year's budget.
7. Storing and overhauling of all equipment.
8. Professional improvement, college winter courses, attendance at the educational meetings of the greenkeepers, and keeping up to date by reading the various golf publications on course maintenance.

The Annual Frolic and Ladies' Nite was held at the Weston Golf Club on November 6th. Following a fine steak dinner, entertainment was furnished by Pietro Modelia and daughter. Bowling and dancing were enjoyed. Over a hundred members and guests attended and enjoyed themselves until the wee small hours.

The Committee on Legislation is again introducing the bill on turf research this session. We believe that with the experience gained from last year's attempt our committee, with the help of all of us, can put this bill thru this year. Committee chairman Frank Wilson asks that all of you who have petitions to get them signed and returned to him as soon as possible.

KENT'S COMMENTS

By Clinton K. Bradley,
Our New Jersey Correspondent

"A man's greatest compliment to a woman is when he suggests that they share their lives."—Grasshopper Philosophy.

At Bonnet Shores Country Club in Narragansett in 1929, a group of men met to form the Rhode Island Greenkeepers' Club. The writer was host-greenkeeper, and, after the organization formalities, he urged the first step to take was to affiliate with the New England Greenkeepers' Club.

Off the record, the advisability of this was questioned by one who also mentioned the factor of representation. It was decided that each who was also a member of the New England Greenkeepers' Club and the Rhode Island Association could represent the latter group. Having the honor of being admitted to both Clubs when in that district, your correspondent is still interested in the welfare of that region.

It is very evident that golf course superintendents in the New England States are among the best in the nation. Credit for this is due the calibre of the association members, and the efforts and cooperation of the Massachusetts and Rhode Island State Colleges.

The American Greenkeeping Society renders great compliment to the New England Organizations in soliciting their affiliation. Your support is valued, and in order to assure success and recognition of our profession on a national basis, your associations should individually resolve to affiliate.

Carlton Treat, John Anderson, Arie Hendenberg and your scribe, all formerly in New England, are now members of the New Jersey Golf Course Supts. Assn. While all of our members are not on the "National" roster, we have, since affiliating with the American Greenkeeping Society (formerly the N. A. G. A.) experienced in our local, new interest, confidence, activity and recognition. Our membership has also made a substantial increase.

We in New Jersey have no feeling of rivalry or competition with other sections. Our desire is to keep up to date, and make steps ahead. In turn the "National" has been strengthened by our affiliation.

Considering things progressively and unbiased, the N. E. G. C. welcomed the

support of the Connecticut and Rhode Island organizations. In the same spirit the "National" solicits your affiliation.

In a back issue of a Newsletter, this year, reference was made to the "dumb acquiescence" of members at meetings. Rumor, which is always subject to correction, has it that meetings Down East are degenerating into the type of ladies quilting parties. . . . "refreshments were served, business was discussed, and a good time was held by all." Is THAT all YOU are organized to do?

The proposition puts one in mind of an ardent and worthy suitor asking a lady's hand. Why, I ask, be an "old maid"? If the "National" affiliation resolution and platform does not meet with your approval, perhaps you can draw up one that will mutually agree.

(This subject matter has been discussed so much that it may no longer interest our members; we include it to notify our members that the National Association still exists, but will be known after this year as the American Greenkeeping Society. We venture to inform scribe Bradley that the doings of the last named organization are little known in New England, that in spite of rumor, the Greenkeepers Club of New England is a thriving, enterprising organization, and that we have other correspondents in New Jersey that differ from him in some particulars!—Editor.)

FATHER COMED HOME

"Who's the stranger, mother dear?
Look, he knows us, ain't it queer?
Hush, my own, don't talk so wild,
He's your father, dearest child.
He's my father, no such thing,
Father passed away last Spring.
Father didn't die, you dub,
Father joined a golfing club;
But they closed the club, so he
Has no place to go, you see,
No place left for him to warm,
That is why he's coming home.
Kiss him, he won't bite you, child,
All them golfing guys look wild."

—Anon.

Our Congratulations to the Joe Johnstons of Lexington upon the arrival October 17th of Joan Margaret, their first-born!

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N. J. GOLF COURSE SUPTS. REVIEW 1937 SEASON

By C. K. Bradley
Public Relations Agent

The N. J. Golf Course Superintendents' Assn. and representatives of the Philadelphia District Golf Course Superintendents met at Trenton C. C. on October 18th. Greens Committee Chairmen and players interested in the welfare of their respective courses were invited to meet, and participate in matches for prizes put up by the N. J. Assn.

Following the business meeting, an excellent turkey dinner was served. Seated at the head table were Mr. Hunt, of Board of Directors, and Mr. Mattice, Manager of Canoebrook C. C., Dr. Fred V. Grau of Penn. State College, Dr. H. B. Sprague of N. J. Agricultural Experiment Station, Dr. E. E. Evaul of U. S. D. A. Soil Conservation Dept., Dr. Husted, Greens Chairman, and John Cameron, Supt. of Yountakah C. C., Sheriff Bradley, President, Ken. Wolcott, Greens Chairman of Trenton C. C., and M. E. Farnum, President of Phila. Golf Supts. Assn.

Primary purpose of this gathering was to discuss various factors and weather influence on turf, as met this year. Some golfers have the mistaken idea that golf course superintendents can perform miracles under every condition. Not finding conditions the same all season, they blame the man in charge, as being negligent, and demand that he be replaced. Inasmuch as years of combined practical and technical knowledge are required to produce today's high golf standards, the folly of such thought is apparent to those behind the scenes.

Sheriff Bradley considers the N. J. Golf Course Superintendents' Assn. the most vital in the state pertaining to golf. All the members are interested in the players' and course welfare, and the job of maintenance is the most difficult part of golf. Superintendents are even "supposed" to be able to control the weather and the elements along with turf disease and insect ravages. At Trenton Country Club, they have found it best policy to have a long-term greens committee, and the Superintendent's judgment final. President Bradley advised all other golf clubs to do likewise.

Only reliable dealers advertise in the NEWSLETTER.

M. E. Farnum of the Philadelphia Country Club reported more insect injury by sod web-worm and chinch bugs this year than in the past. He found as many as 40 web-worms per square foot of putting green. In his district, trouble started around the middle of August, due to heavy rains and hot weather. Chinch bugs raised havoc early in September, and the cost of treating fairways to control these insects was prohibitive. In the fall turf usually recovers, but this season was too cool and dry in comparison, to let turf get a root-hold to carry over the winter.

Dr. Sprague said that the value of regular attendance to these meetings was not apparent, due to the gradual acquisition of knowledge. Those who do not belong to the Association miss a great deal of information of benefit to their clubs. The business of greens-keeping and the knowledge obtained is absorbed faster than that of commercial farming. While means of turf upkeep are improving rapidly, the pace, perhaps is not fast enough to suit player demand. Since pressure on developments of turf care is very great, it is imperative to keep up with the times.

Greenskeeping progresses as a result of keen observation and straight thought. Research cannot solve the problems, only show what to look for and think about. Course maintenance is comparable to automobile manufacturing. Engineers can design parts, but it requires trained mechanics to make and assemble them into a workable, streamlined car. It is up to the superintendents to reduce technicalities to terms of practice. Dr. Sprague inferred that new findings were too complicated to grasp by those who stayed at home. He felt that clubs should encourage their representation at meetings, and underwrite their "greenkeepers" expenses to insure their getting around and seeing what is being done elsewhere.

Dr. Evaul, formerly of the N. J. Turf Advisory Service, told a few humorous stories in regards to uninformed player kicks. He recalled an incident that illustrated the difficulty of explaining things, "---Like talking horse sense to a jack-ass."

Evaul claimed that while serious conditions occurred this year, things were not as bad as they might have been ten years ago when we did not have the experience and training of men in charge to-day.

Dr. Grau, who has been abroad studying golf courses, observed that our American golfers should be more tolerant of their golf facilities, which in many ways are better in spite of our different climate. Golf superintendents should stress the importance of basic principles of turf care. He advocates the raising of mowers so as not to cut too close even at the risk of player complaint. While grass should not be cut too close at any time, in the spring when it starts to grow, it should be left longer to compete with crab-grass and other weeds.

Dr. Husted illustrated the advantages of golf swimming pools, their construction, and operation. He cited a club that lost some 60 members who died from advancing age. A swimming pool attracts new and younger members to the club, which helps keeping up golf interest, and income of dining room, bar and other facilities.

While attendance was not as great as expected, it was of sufficient amount to encourage the N. J. Golf Course Superintendents' Assn. to make this an annual event.

TALKS ON TREES

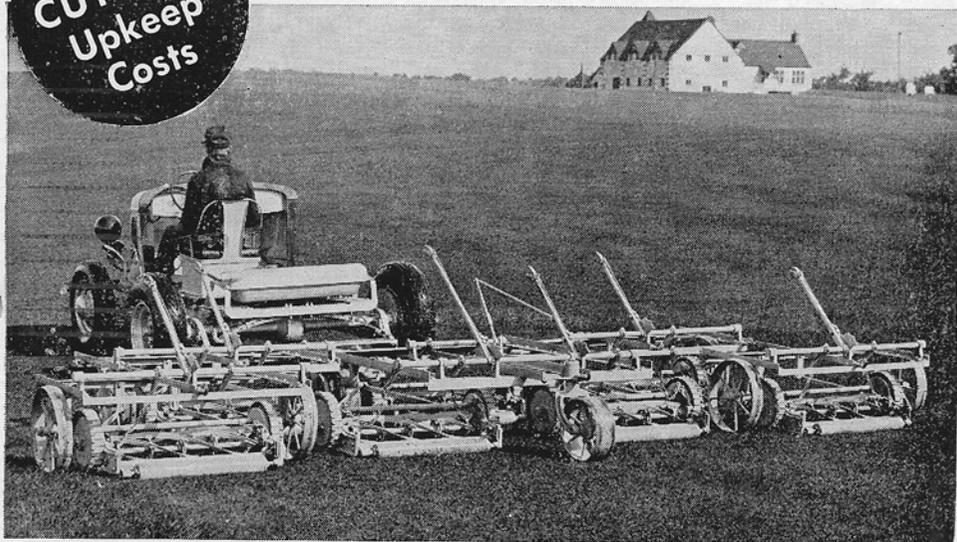
By E. Porter Felt

Director and Chief Entomologist
Stamford, Conn.

October is the month of gorgeous colors and of browning foliage. Most people see the former and a few note the latter. Both are important.

Hillsides and mountains are gayly decked with the yellows and reds of the sugar maples. Many of these trees have tips of branches or even large limbs, occasionally an entire side, bright red in marked contrast to the remainder of the tree. The red maples are brilliant in color with here and there a tree with most of the leaves irregularly bordered with red. The Norway maples are gorgeous in their yellows. The reds of the different oaks vary from near scarlet to a darker red. The sweet gums are dressed out in a flaming red, rivaling the tints of the Virginia creeper, sumac and poison ivy, which last revels in yellows as well as reds. These colors, brilliant though they are, are but steps toward the brown dead leaf of winter.

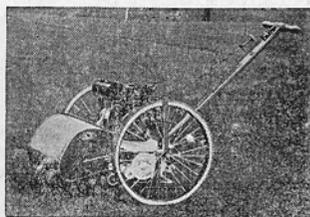
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The browning of the pines and Arborvitae at this time is entirely normal. Nevertheless, it causes apprehension. Occasionally there is so much brown foliage on the pines that they appear unhealthy. A careful examination usually shows that this browning is limited to the needles of the previous year, sometimes to those of two preceding years and in exceptional cases to those of an earlier year. The consequence is that if the needles of several years brown the same autumn, the tree is for a time a somewhat sorry looking object. This is likely to cause apprehension especially as some trees may show a larger proportion of brown needles than others. The same condition is found in the Arborvitae except that in the case of this ornamental it is only by the shedding of the smaller twigs that the older foliage is cast off. There is a similar variation in the proportion of foliage ripening on this tree from season to season. It is reasonably safe to assume that branch tips with a fair amount of vigorous foliage are normal or nearly so and are not necessarily showing the effects of disease.

The Autumn is the time when field observations are pleasures available to all endowed with the seeing eye.

There have been some most interesting developments in the Dutch elm disease situation during the past six months.

Figures recently given out for the Tristate area by Federal authorities indicate a reduction in the number of diseased trees of about one-fourth for the territory as a whole compared with those found last year. The ratio for New Jersey is one-fourth and for New York one-third. There is a slight, though not alarming, increase in the number of diseased trees found in Connecticut and a relatively very small increase in the number of diseased trees found in the widely scattered outlying areas.

Figures released by New Jersey authorities show a reduction in Essex and Union Counties of about one-half and in Bergen and Morris Counties of about one-fourth in the number of diseased elms compared with last year. Similar conditions exist in certain New Jersey municipalities as for example Belleville with 71 diseased trees in 1934 and only 4 in 1937 and Newark with a decrease

from 88 to 7 during the same period. The figures illustrate possibilities where the work is supported by an enlightened public opinion. These results vary widely from reports of conditions in certain European countries. Obviously the Tristate Dutch elm disease problem has effectively demonstrated the possibilities of a coordinated control program founded upon the systematic location and removal of diseased and partly dead trees.

A well planned tree sanitation program is a most effective control for Dutch elm disease and for many other troubles affecting shade and ornamental trees.

A stick insect is a bizarre creature which lives as suggested by its general appearance among the twigs of various forest trees.

There have been occasionally records in the past of stick insects being sufficiently abundant in central New York to defoliate large areas of oak. The insect resembles a small twig an eighth of an inch in diameter or thereabouts and some three inches long, green in summer and with a coloring in the Fall about that of the normal brown of the branchlet. The long legs and even the antennae or feelers have much the same appearance as extremely fine twigs and the movements of this strange creature are so deliberate that ordinarily it escapes notice. As a rule in New England the walking stick or stick insect, as it is sometimes called, is relatively uncommon and noteworthy largely because of its peculiar and unusual appearance.

A report just published by Professor Samuel A. Graham of the School of Forestry and Conservation, University of Michigan, states that walking stick outbreaks are becoming common in the black oak forests of the North Central part of the lower Peninsula of Michigan and in his judgment there is a probability of continued spread until practically all suitable forest stands will become infested. The walking sticks prefer the black oaks. He finds that although the trees are stripped of leaves late in the season and the damage is therefore less serious than if this occurred earlier, an infestation of this insect over a period of ten to fifteen years may kill more than half the black oaks, although the white oak, the red maple, the poplar and the evergreens

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are not injured. This study of a comparatively rare insect in much of the United States shows that under favorable conditions an insect of the minor importance of the walking stick may become a destructive pest.

It is quite within possibilities that such developments are the result of small changes in the relation between natural controls such as parasites and predators and the insect developing into a destructive pest.

A State Commission for the saving of a giant oak is an unusual news item.

A recent issue of the St. Louis Post Dispatch states that Governor Stark of Missouri has appointed a commission to save the big oak in Mississippi County, said to be the largest oak tree in the state. It is proposed to secure at least ten acres and there is under contemplation the purchase of a larger area to be maintained as a natural game preserve, though the primary object is to protect this tree. This latter is a broad-er and worthy motive.

The protection of large trees is becoming of increasing importance throughout the country. There are, for example, the two giant elms, one at Wethersfield, Connecticut and the other at Marietta, Ohio remarkable on account of their size and especially for the almost uncanny agreement in dimensions. Both of these trees can be preserved for many years and yet there is an ever present possibility that they, or others nearly as desirable, may be destroyed either by natural agencies which usually can be checked in large measure or through some ill-considered action taken possibly in the belief that such trees interfere with desirable community progress. Once seriously damaged or cut down these and similar outstanding trees are irreplaceable. The action of the Governor of Missouri suggests the need of greater interest in our historical and large trees in other parts of the country. There are hundreds, possibly thousands of these, a number at least richly deserving special care. One has only to recall that the life span of the famous Washington elm of Cambridge might easily have been greatly extended if the possibilities in regard to this had been appreciated before it was too late.

The Indian regard for large trees and their use as natural rallying places might well be emulated in this day.

Lone Tree of Lone Tree Prairie, near Rochester, Minnesota is passing, only one large branch remaining alive.

There is a story connected with this tree. A press clipping implies a tree widely known in that locality. The illustration shows an elm with a trunk diameter of well toward six feet. There is a little life in small limbs near the middle of the tree and one of the large lower branches with a diameter of probably one foot appears to be unharmed. The statement is made that a year or two ago the old elm began to show signs of slow death. Some residents attributed the trouble to a pile of anti-freeze mixture which was dumped under the tree by the Highway Department for later use on icy roads. Probably these residents are right and this magnificent tree has succumbed, not to the infirmities of old age, but to the piling of the material, presumably sand to which either enough common salt or calcium chloride had been added to prevent the mass from freezing during the cold weather. Such roadside piles are common. Few realize the menace to nearby trees. The leaching salt may injure trees at some distance if the drainage is in the right direction.

It is expected that the use of this material will continue since the need of sanding slippery roads in winter is generally recognized. The deadly effects of this combination on trees should be more fully appreciated and more care exercised to pile the material in places where it will not kill valuable trees. Just a little forethought may save thousands of trees from the slow death and unsightly conditions which have overtaken Lone Tree of Lone Tree Prairie. Minnesota is not the only state where magnificent trees have been killed because of inattention to such details.

Those interested in tree welfare should use their influence to prevent local tragedies of this nature.

Charlie Parker has been installing two units of six holes each of fairway irrigation at the Wianno Golf Club this Fall. Buckner heads and steel pipe are being used.

The Mass. Golf Assoc. has recently changed its address to 101 Milk Street, Boston, Mass.

The Board of Directors met in Boston on November 15th.

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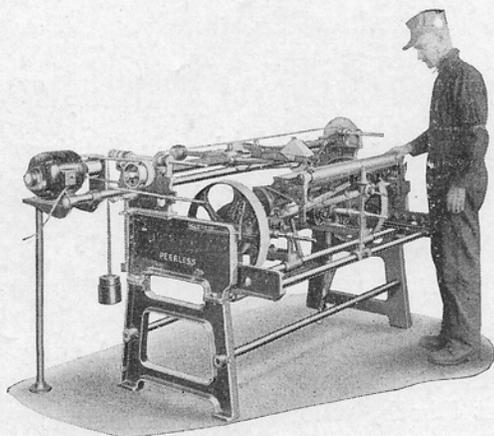
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